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## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2504

July 27, 2009

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The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rosa,

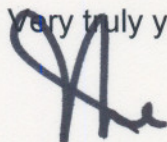
I have been made aware that your subcommittee will hold a hearing tomorrow relating to a provision in the agriculture spending bill that would ban imports of processed chicken from China. This provision, which has been included on the agriculture legislation for a number of years, has caused some concern within Missouri's agricultural community, which benefits from robust international trade.

The federal government has a responsibility to ensure American consumers have access to the safest and most affordable food supply. No one wants us to permit unsafe food in our grocery stores. But, as policy makers study the best legislative solutions to serious agricultural trade concerns, decisions must be made based on the best evidence possible.

That is why your hearing tomorrow is particularly important to my Missouri farmers, some of whom feel like the swine and beef industry are being punished by China because of the continued processed chicken import ban. Please know I share the concerns of Show-Me State producers on this issue and look forward to learning more from your hearing.

With respect, I remain

Very truly yours,



IKE SKELTON  
Member of Congress

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